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What Happens When a Powerful Choleric Encounter the Risen Christ? **A Close Encounter with Living Love • Part 2**

Lesson 8

What Happens When a Powerful Choleric Encounters the Risen Christ?

John 21:1-14

1. THE CARNAL (CASUAL?) FOLLOWERS: The Seven Were Busy but BARREN Disciples.

Big question we need to think about is WHY Peter said: "I am going fishing?"

Four Truths for Busy but Barren Disciples

- We live in the TENSION between *the now* and *the not yet!* John 21:1-2
- We are TEMPTED to return to our old way of life! John 21:3
So were they being carnal or spiritual?

Is "Goin' Fishing" What They Should Be Doing in Light of...

- 1) The **climax** of (20:28-31) and the confession of Thomas?
- 2) The **commission** of (20:21-23) and the reception of the Spirit?
- 3) The **call** of (1:35-51) and the forsaking of all to follow Christ?
- 4) The **concern** of (6:26-40) and the laboring for eternal food?
- 5) The **confession** of (6:67-69) and following the Word of Life?
- 6) The **compromise** of (18:12-27) and the need for restoration?
- 7) The **confrontation** of (21:15-17) and the question of love?



The Question of Carnality v. Spirituality Is Measured by...

- 1) Our **Old Purpose** in Life - "**I AM...** LOOK OUT FOR SELF"
- 2) Our **Old Priority** in Life - "**I am GOING...** TAKE CARE OF SELF-SATISFY SELF"
- 3) Our **Old Pursuit** in Life - "**I am going FISHING...** FISHING FOR FISH FOR THEMSELVES"
- 4) Our **Old Power** in Life - "**I am going fishing...and that night they CAUGHT NOTHING.** FLESHLY EFFORT"
- 5) Our **Old Personality** in Life - "**WE WILL ALSO come with you.** PETER'S POWERFUL PERSONALITY LEADS HIS WAY!"

- We are TESTED by the risen Lord to repent and live a new way of life that is on mission for Him and His people! John 21:4-6

The Question of Carnality v. Spirituality Is Measured by... Galatians 5:13-26

- 1) Our **New Purpose** in Life: THROUGH LOVE SERVE OTHERS-NOT SELF! Galatians 5:13
- 2) Our **New Priority** in Life: LOVE-OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST BEFORE ALL ELSE + OTHERS BEFORE SELF! Gal 5:14-15
- 3) Our **New Pursuit** in Life: FOLLOW HIM and FISH FOR MEN and FEED THE SHEEP! Luke 5:4-11; John 1:35-51; 21:15-19
- 4) Our **New Power** in Life: POWER OF THE SPRIT, NOT THE FLESH! Galatians 5:16-21

5) Our **New Personality** in Life: **FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT, NOT WORKS OF THE FLESH** *Galatians 5:22-26*

► We are **TREATED** by the risen Lord to the benefits of the new way of life! *John 21:7-14*

- 1) The charcoal fire was **already provided** by the Lord.
John 18:12-27 is the only other time the charcoal fire is mentioned in John's gospel.
- 2) The grilled fish were **already provided** by the Lord.
John 6:26-40 is the only other time fish and bread are mentioned in John's gospel.
- 3) The baked bread **already provided** by the Lord.
John 6:67-40 is the ultimate confession of Peter after spiritual bread is offered.
- 4) The fresh fish were **actually eaten**.
John 21:5 is the result of their efforts to meet their own needs first.
- 5) The big catch was **accurately counted**.
John 21:3 is the result of following their own wisdom and not Christ's commands (**21:6, 11**)!
- 6) The unbroken net was **appropriately mentioned**.
Luke 5:4-11 is the only other catch of fish in the gospels and climaxes with the call to forsake all and follow Christ to fish for men

| Old Way of Life v. New Way of Life |
|---|
| Frustration v. Fulfillment Barrenness v. Fruitfulness Distance v. Closeness Guilt v. Forgiveness Knowledge v. Experience Purposelessness v. Purposefulness |

Following the Old Way of Life Is BUSY BUT BARREN.

Nothing to show for all their effort of working in the darkness all night long!

Following the New Way of Life Is FRUITFUL AND FULFILLING!

More to show than they needed—enough for themselves and others—and NOTHING IS LOST!

What Are the Benefits of Obeying This New Way of Life?

► **DEEPER INSIGHT** into **who** the risen Lord really is. (7)

Who is the first to recognize and know the risen Lord?

► **GREATER INTIMACY** with **where** the risen Lord actually is. (7-8, 12-13)

► **BETTER RESULTS** of **what** the risen Lord can only perform. (6, 8, 10-11)

► **RICHER PROVISION** of **what** the risen Lord can only provide. (9-13)

► **CLOSER ENCOUNTERS** of the **real kind** with risen Lord. (1, 14)

ONLY when we OBEY Jesus' call to live His way and not our way will we experience ALL that HE really IS and HAS for us!

Have You Gone Fishing Your Way or Are You Living His Way?

*Does Jesus seem missing from your daily routine? Does God seem distant and unapproachable?
Are you busy but barren? Trying harder to make ends meet with nothing to show for it?
Has it been a while since Jesus seemed real and close and personal to you?*

The Living Lord is closer than you think! He is ready to meet you where you are and lead you into a new way of living that is fruitful and fulfilling!

Next Week: A Fish Fry Close Encounter Around the Fire!